

Charles Bolden, NASA Administrator

Commercial Space Announcements

Kennedy Space Center

August 23, 2012

- Good afternoon.
- A couple of weeks ago, I was here on the Space Coast to announce the three American companies we are partnering with to get our astronauts flying again from U.S. soil – and the \$1 billion dollar commitment we're making to get it done.
- Today, I'm back to announce some other significant milestones our commercial space partners are making, and highlight the other aspects of the ambitious American space program to which the President and Congress have agreed.
- I am pleased to announce SpaceX has completed its work under our Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS) program, and is now ready to move into regular cargo service for us.

- They have met their COTS milestones – including this year’s successful demonstration mission to and from the International Space Station – and are gearing up for their first official contract resupply mission in October.
- We’re working to open a new frontier for commercial opportunities in space and create job opportunities right here in Florida and across the United States.
- We’re working to in-source the work that is currently being done elsewhere and bring it right back here to the U.S. where it belongs.
- This restores a fundamentally important U.S. national capability to deliver cargo to the ISS and safely return it from the Station. SpaceX's first cargo mission will see a *Dragon* capsule launched right here from Cape Canaveral aboard the very Falcon 9 rocket behind us.

- In the coming months, another American company – Orbital Sciences – plans to carry out its first test flight under our COTS program, guaranteeing that we have competition and redundancy in our program.
- I'm also pleased to announce today that another one of our commercial partners, Sierra Nevada, has conducted its first milestone in the next phase of our commercial crew program, or CCoCap. The company, which recently announced plans to establish a presence here in Florida, completed a Program Implementation Plan Review, marking an important first step in their efforts to develop a crew transportation system with their *Dream Chaser* spacecraft.
- NASA's Commercial Crew Program also recently provided new details about its plans to certify commercially developed spacecraft and launch systems that could support future crewed missions to the International Space Station.

- NASA will take a two-phase approach to see that commercial missions are held to the same safety standards as government human space transportation system missions.
- Last year, Boeing announced they would be taking over one of our former Orbiter Processing Facilities to work on their CST-100 crew capsule, and indicated they would be creating 500 jobs in process.
- Boeing will manufacture and assemble the CST-100 here, and will operate its mission control facility here at Kennedy.
- Just a couple of hours ago, another commercial space company – XCOR – announced that it is going to establish operations and manufacturing here in Florida for their suborbital operations.

- Bob Cabana and his team are hard at work transforming the Kennedy Space Center into a 21st Century launch complex.
- Construction is also underway on the *Orion* spacecraft, and its launch vehicle, the Space Launch System, which will take American astronauts farther into space than ever before.
- The *Orion* spacecraft, which we'll get a chance to see later, is undergoing final construction and integration in preparation for its initial test flight in 2014. This work is expected to support at least 350 Space Coast jobs.
- The Mobile Launcher, which will serve as the launch platform for SLS, will soon be ready to support our deep space exploration efforts.
- The crawler transporters, which have carried space shuttles and Apollo Saturn V rockets to their launch pads, are being upgraded to support the next generation of spacecraft and launch vehicles that will liftoff from Kennedy.

- As you can see, there is a lot happening here on the Space Coast to support the next era of American space exploration. This will include the launch tomorrow morning of the Radiation Belt Storm Probes (RBSP) twin satellites, an important science mission that will help study space weather and its potential impacts on the Earth. This is a mission that I'm looking forward to seeing. We'll move to the Atlas V launch complex from here after this conference to get a glimpse RBSP and its Atlas V launch vehicle.
- We're investing in American companies—and American ingenuity—and spurring free-market competition to give taxpayers more bang for the buck, while enabling NASA to do what it does best—reach for the heavens.
- We're continuing our unmatched record of successful missions to Mars, laying the groundwork for a future human mission to the Red Planet.

- Most importantly, we're keeping the United States the undisputed world leader in space exploration and helping to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and astronauts.
- I'll be happy to take some questions before I move on with the tour.